(f) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(g) whether Government are going to come out with a white paper on ISI as promised earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) During his visit to J&K on 26-27 July, 1997 the then Prime Minister had made an appeal to the misguided youth of the State, who have joined the militant ranks, to give up their guns, and said that the Government was prepared to have unconditional talks with them, to enable them to rejoin the mainstream. The Government is still committed to the said offer of talks, within the constitutional framework.

(g) All relevant aspects pertaining to white paper on ISI activities are under close examination at the present.

**Standing Committee of Inter State Council**

3449. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council was constituted recently under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the West Bengal Finance Minister proposed a series of Constitutional amendments on the line of the Sarkaria Commission recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any consensus arouse thereto; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has been reconstituted vide the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Notification dated 7.2.2000. The composition of the Standing Committee is as follows:—

Chairman:

Shri L.K. Advani
Minister of Home Affairs

Members:

(i) Shri George Fernandes,
Minister of Defence

(ii) Shri Yashwant Sinha,
Minister of Finance

(iii) Shri Murasoli Maran,
Minister of Commerce & Industry

(iv) Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu,
Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers

(v) Shri Jaswant Singh,
Minister of External Affairs

(vi) Shri Jyuoti Basu,
Chief Minister, West Bengal.

(vii) Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu,
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

(viii) Dr. M. Karunanidhi,
Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

(ix) Shri Digvijay Singh,
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

(x) Dr. Farooq Abdullah,
Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir

(xi) Shri S.M. Krishna,
Chief Minister, Karnataka

(xii) Shri P.K. Mahanta,
Chief Minister, Assam

(xiii) Shri Prakash Singh Badal,
Chief Minister, Punjab

(c) to (f) While discussing the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Administrative Relations and Reservation of Bills, several suggestions were made by the Finance Minister of West Bengal and some other members of the Standing Committee, which have a bearing on articles 256, 257 and 365 as also articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution of India.

The recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on the above subjects, alongwith the discussions held in the Standing Committee, are yet to be considered by the Inter-State Council.